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Nixon to Beef Up Liaisons to Hill

By a Star-News Staff Writer

KEY BISCAVNE, Fla. — President Nixon is raising to sub-cabinet rank the congressional-relations jobs of some government departments, and is bringing in former congressmen to fill them.

Authoritative sources said today the President soon will name John Kyl, former Republican congressman from Iowa who served on the House Interior Committee, to be assistant secretary of the Interior for legislative liaison.

Nixon recently nominated James D. McKeivitt, a Republican from Colorado who served on the House Judiciary Committee in the last Congress, as assistant attorney general for legislative affairs.

In neither the Interior nor Justice departments — as in most government departments — has the congressional liaison job rated assistant secretary rank.

When McKeivitt's nomination

was announced, the White House said he would fill an assistant secretary slot that deals with alien property but which hadn't been filled for several years.

To make room for Kyl, officials said there would have to be some reshuffling of assistant secretary slots.

The position of assistant secretary of Interior for public land management is one that will not be abolished. Sources said the President intends to name Jack O. Horton, a former deputy undersecretary of Interior, to fill the post. Horton will succeed Harrison Loesch, whose resignation was accepted recently.

The President was expected to announce today his acceptance of the resignation of Edwin S. Cohen as undersecretary of the Treasury. Officials emphasized it was Cohen's own desire to return to private life and that Nixon regrets his departure.